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PERHAPS by this time Sim Coy realizes the

situation.

MR. JOHN W. KERN would be one thousand
dollars poorer now than he is had anyone
taken his bet.

SENATOR VOORHEES is supposed to have
fired off his speech in Washington last night.
The force of the explosion was not felt here.

It is gratifying to have the usual order of
things reversed for once by reports from
southern Indians that peaches are still unin-
jured.

"GOOSE" EDEN shedding tears at the de-
parture of his patron saint and political boss
for Michigan City is a touching evidence of
the uncertainty of human affairs.

The eighteenth ward will be represented
for some time to come in the penitentiary in-
stead of the Council. If the people of the
ward had elected an honest man they would
not be placed in their present predicament.

The Sentinel is of the opinion that Sim
Coy's permanent retirement from active par-
ticipation in politics will be for the good of
the Democratic party, but somehow it doesn't
seem happy at its retirement to Michigan
City. Some people are hard to please.

The organization of no new political party
is complete until a resolution denouncing
both the old parties is adopted. Nevertheless
the old parties go right on managing the busi-
ness of the country, and holding each other
level, just the same as if these eccentric little
off-shoots had never existed.

If the labor politicians did not meet once in
a while, and tell their lugubrious tale about
the poverty of farmers and working classes
generally, and the hopelessness and distress
which prevails among them, most laboring
people would never find out how miserable
and down-trodden they are. And so peculiar
are these men that a great majority of them
will, as likely as not, refuse to acknowledge
their misery when it is pointed out to them.

The ballot is very sacred in the South, so
sacred that "a nigger" is not permitted to
touch it. This is the testimony of a deputy
United States marshal who passed through
here in charge of a prisoner for the Albany
penitentiary. He said the planters first assure
themselves that all their colored hands desire
to vote the Democratic ticket and then plump
in a straight ticket for each one. He was sur-
prised to learn that colored men here were
permitted to handle and deposit their own
ballots. The Southern method of protecting
the ballot would hardly be popular here.

BEVIA A. LOCKWOOD was nominated for
the presidency by the Equal Rights party at
Des Moines, on Tuesday, and some surprise is
expressed at the failure of the Indiana suf-
frage convention to endorse this action. The
reason is plain. The Indiana Equal suffrag-
ists are broad and liberal, and not bound by
the narrow limitations of sex in their political
affiliations. It is understood that they do not
regard Bevla's prospect of carrying Indiana
this year as good, and have, therefore, re-
solved to labor for the nomination and elec-
tion of General Harrison. Any predictions
individuals among them may have had for the
Democratic candidate must have been crushed
forever by the violent assault upon them by
that party's organ. They can't vote this year,
but they can do a "power" of talking, and if
the Sentinel were blessed with even a small
portion of wisdom it would refrain from an-
tagonizing even less influential friends in the
present critical condition of Democratic af-
fairs.

EASTERN papers discussing the recent natu-
ral-gas accident at Buffalo are showing consid-
erable ignorance of the subject. They seem
to be actuated in part by prejudice against
the new fuel and a desire to represent it as
peculiarly and mysteriously dangerous. The
latest contribution of misinformation on this
subject that has fallen under our notice is
that of the Insurance Times, which, in dis-
cussing the alleged danger of natural gas with
reference to fires and insurance rates, in-
stances the gas made out of crude petroleum.
Such gas is heavier than air, and when it es-
capes by leakage or through an open burner it
sinks to the lowest level and gradually fills a
"room or cellar in which it may be confined,
where a lighted match may ignite it and
cause an explosion. "So the natural gas,"
says the Insurance Times, "possessing all
these dangerous qualities [those of petro-
leum gas], is in its present state
a menace to the safety of every
city, town, factory or dwelling where it is
used." The illustration and argument of the
Insurance Times fall from a false premise.
Natural gas, instead of being heavier than

air, is much lighter. Its specific gravity is as
600 to 1,000, or a little more than half as
heavy as air. Natural gas is 90 per cent.
hydrogen, which is the lightest of all gases.
It follows that escaping natural gas, instead
of sinking to the lowest level, rises rapidly
and seeks an outlet that way. The further
result is that if it escape in an open grate it
goes up the chimney, and if in a furnace,
range, or stove it passes off through the pipe
if the draft is sufficiently open. The light-
ness of natural gas is a material point in its
favor, and one in regard to which a paper like
the Insurance Times should not have made
such a blunder.

GERMAN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

To-night the city School Board will discuss
and probably decide for the year the question
embodied in Mr. Greenstreet's resolution sus-
pending the teaching of German in the pub-
lic schools. The emergency is upon us and
demands serious reflection. We wish to pre-
sent in as clear and compact a form as pos-
sible the principal considerations affecting the
proposed change.

First—In October, 1871, a resolution of the
board provided that "instruction in German
should be introduced in such schools as have an
attendance of one hundred or more children
who can speak German, provided the parents of
the children shall petition therefor." Here,
indisputably, was an addition to the common
school course made expressly for pupils of
German parentage inadequately instructed in
English. The present system has wandered
widely and most expensively from this plan.

Second—The Constitution of the State,
adopted November, 1851, expressly excluded a
graduated system of education, running
from township schools to a State university,
provided by the Constitution of 1816, in
which foreign languages might have been
properly and legally introduced. But when
the change of 1851 substituted "a uniform
system of common schools" for a general
"graduated system of education" it obviously
meant to confine the tuition of the public
schools to elementary English tuition. Ger-
man tuition is a violation of the present Con-
stitution.

Third—German tuition is practically worth-
less. There are not a score of public school
pupils who have taken the whole German
course of study who do or can use it for any
practical purpose in their business. Of 3,047
German pupils in the schools last year, but
130 followed up the study in the High-school.
A large proportion of the lower-grade scholars
did not, and never do, enter the High-school,
but not a fourth of those who do reach the
last grade follow up a study that they find
useless or distasteful. Most of them drop
out on the way through the lower grades.

Fourth—The German classes occupy twenty
rooms in the various school-buildings, seating
622 scholars. The utterly useless German
course thus excludes from the schools 622
pupils, who, but for its obstruction, could re-
ceive the common-school education the Con-
stitution provides. The German is demon-
strably a worthless and wasted study, and
ruins the valuable English tuition of over 600
children.

Fifth—Comparing the time applied uselessly
to German with the whole time of a school
year, and the proportionate cost of one with
the whole cost of the other, we find the ex-
pense of German tuition near \$20,000 a year.
This is almost wholly a waste of public
money, and that at a time when the city
school tax is carried to its full limit, the fund
under constant pressure, a debt loaded on it
that costs \$15,000 a year in interest, and
hundreds of children excluded from school,
for nothing under heaven but to make this
waste and expense by the teaching of German
that benefits nobody, or, at the best, not more
than four scholars in one hundred.

It is high time to put an end to this sense-
less and oppressive waste of school money, as
St. Louis did. If anyone wants his children
to know German, they can be taught it at
home, as the Irish, and French, and Scandi-
navians make their children learn it, with lit-
tle trouble to himself and no expense to other
people.

MR. MELVILLE W. FULLER.

Democratic papers are already growing nerv-
ous over the delay of the Senate in confirming
the nomination of Mr. Fuller as Chief justice,
and have started a sensational story to ac-
count for it. They say there is a scheme on
foot among Republican Senators to "hang up"
the nomination until after the Presidential
election, and if a Republican President is
elected, to reject it altogether. There is not
the slightest reason to believe that the story
has any foundation. Its reproduction gives
the Sentinel a chance to denounce it as an "in-
decisive partisan scheme," but it would better
have termed it a ridiculous partisan lie.
There has been no undue delay in the con-
firmation of Mr. Fuller, and there is certainly
no occasion for undue haste. Under the Con-
stitution the responsibility of the appoint-
ment rests on the Senate as much as on the
President, and it is the duty of that body to
inform itself in the premises and act delib-
erately. A Republican Senate rejected one of
President Grant's nominations for Chief
justice, and delayed so long in confirming an-
other that he withdrew it. Other nomina-
tions for the Supreme Bench have been very
carefully scrutinized by the Senate, as they
ought to be. In the matter of so important
an appointment, and that for life, the Senate
cannot afford to act on first impressions of
popular hurrah. It should look very carefully
into every part of a man's record and ante-
cedents to ascertain if there be anything
wrong. So great a lawyer as Caleb Cushing,
nominated by President Grant for Chief
justice, was rejected on account of a flaw in
his war record. Neither the President nor
the public remembered it when the nomination
was first sent in, and it was only discovered
after a thorough sifting of his record. Let
Mr. Fuller's record be similarly sifted. If it
is sound and clean the sifting can do him no
harm, and if there be any flaw or error it had
much better be discovered before his confir-
mation than afterwards.

The two principal charges or suspicions
against Mr. Fuller are that he was a copper-
head during the war and was identified with
some ugly schemes while a member of the
Illinois Legislature. The record shows that

he acted and voted with the Democratic ma-
jority in the Legislature of 1863, which was
almost as notoriously disloyal as the Indiana
Legislature of the same year. It also shows
that he championed and engineered through
the House a fraudulent railroad scheme, whose
passage caused great excitement at the time,
and which was vetoed by Governor Dick
Yates. It was entitled an act to incorporate
the Wabash Railroad Company, ostensibly to
operate in the southern part of Illinois. In-
stead of that it provided for the construction
of street railways through a large portion of
Chicago and the suburban towns, and granted
franchises of immense value. After the bill
had passed the House it was substituted for
another of a different title in the Senate, and
was smuggled through that body by a trick.
When its true character was discovered eleven
Senators signed a written request to the Gov-
ernor to veto it. He did so, and following is
an extract from his veto message:

"Instead of the bill to incorporate a railway
in the southern section of the State it pro-
vides for the construction of numerous horse-
railroad tracks through eighteen of the prin-
cipal streets in the city of Chicago, across four
of its most important bridges, and also for a
railway or railroads on any common highway
or highways in either or all of the towns of
South Chicago, Hyde Park, Lake, Worth,
West Chicago, Lyons, Jefferson and Cicero,
in the county of Cook, in this State, and from
time to time change, enlarge and extend the
locations thereof."

"It is an immense corporation, conferring
exclusive privileges upon the incorporators
and affecting most materially the post of
Chicago, now and for a long time to come.
The bill, it seems, had never been submitted
to the City Council, and to the people of Chi-
cago, and no opportunity afforded to the peo-
ple of the city, or to the residents on the
streets and highways to be affected by it, to
examine its provisions. Indeed, it would
seem that even the intention to apply for
such a charter had been studiously kept from
those most deeply interested, and no suffi-
cient reason can be imagined for the employ-
ment of a false title to the bill, unless it was
to conceal from those interested and the pub-
lic the real provisions of the charter."

The bill was worked through the Legisla-
ture so quietly that the Chicago papers knew
nothing about it. When its character was
discovered they denounced it in unsparring
terms. The Chicago Tribune, in printing
the Governor's veto message, said:

"The veto message of Governor Yates,
whereby the Wabash Gridiron horse-railroad
scheme of huge proportions for the curbing of
the city of Chicago and for the enriching of
the conspirators who stole the bill through
the Legislature, was that its doom, as ap-
pears in our columns this morning. The Govern-
or's statement of reasons why he cannot per-
mit the bill to become a law is forcible and
conclusive, and we doubt not that every man
in the city, excepted always the claimants of
some direct or contingent interest in the suc-
cess of our laws—New York Press.

Other papers denounced it as the "Gridiron
Railroad Swindle." A public meeting was
held in one of the largest halls of that day in
Chicago, which, after thanking Governor
Yates for checkmating the schemes of the
disloyal Democracy, passed the following:

"Resolved, That as a city Chicago owes
Governor Yates a debt of gratitude for his
noble and upright course in checking and
putting beyond reach of corrupt legislation a
project as outrageous as it was shameful, and
designed to invade and override the municipal
rights of our citizens, known as the Wabash
horse-railway scheme."

The Journal of the Illinois House of Repre-
sentatives shows that Mr. Fuller engineered
the bill through the House and voted for it at
every stage. The Illinois State Journal of
June 9, 1863, referring to the bill said: "Mel-
ville Fuller is trying to pass it in the House."
This is the Melville Fuller whose name is
now before the Senate for confirmation as
Chief justice. Under the circumstances we
think the Senate can afford to go a little slow
in the matter of confirmation and feel its way
pretty carefully.

A SOUTHERN CLAIM.

A little claim which the State of Flor-
ida is now pushing shows how earnestly
the South is for the old flag and an appropria-
tion. The claim is for \$224,648, and it had
its origin in the good old times when Jef-
ferson Davis, of sainted Democratic memory,
was Secretary of War. In December, 1855, a
small band of Indians attacked a squad of
United States troops, in Florida, killing and
wounding several. Thereupon Davis, then
Secretary of War, authorized the enlistment
of five companies of volunteers, and from
March 10, 1856, to May, 1858, there were
always four companies of volunteer troops in
the service of the government, besides the
regular troops. Several additional com-
panies of volunteers were raised and
tendered, and that eminent patriot, John
B. Floyd, who succeeded Davis as Secretary
of War, had them all mustered into the ser-
vice of the United States, although they were
not needed and rendered no service. In 1861,
the State of Florida presented to Congress a
claim for \$224,648 on account of the expenses
and services of those volunteers. Congress
might have pleaded a set-off on account of the
trouble Florida helped to make between 1861
and 1865, but that being an unpleasant sub-
ject, was not mentioned. At this time, how-
ever, the government held \$132,000 of Florida
bonds for the Indian trust fund, issued long
before the war, and on which there was ac-
cumulated and unpaid interest since 1861. In
a spirit of great liberality, the government
proposed to recognize Florida's claim if she
would take the bonds at their face
value in part payment, the government
to pay the remainder in cash. As the bonds
amounted to \$132,000, the amount of the
claim to have been paid in cash would have
been about \$92,000. This proposition was
declined, and since then Florida has been
holding out for the entire amount of her
claim, \$224,648. In any aspect of the case
the claim has no basis of justice, but the re-
fusal of Florida to accept her own bonds in
part payment of the claim, with unpaid in-
terest on the bonds since 1861, thrown in, is
a fine illustration of Southern greed and gall.
The Democratic members from Florida are
making a determined effort to secure the pas-
sage of the claim, and will probably succeed in
the House, though they may run against a
snag in the Senate. When the late Confed-
eracy gets control of both branches of Con-
gress there will be a wonderful revival of
Southern claims from way back.

EDITOR STONE, of the Chicago News, has re-
tired from business because he has done his
share of work and has money enough. This is
a good example, but comparatively few mem-
bers of the professions will follow it. Most ed-

itors go on working, and working, and drawing
their weekly salary right up to the verge of ster-
ility, and never once find out that they have
enough money whatever they may think about
the work.

SHORTLY after the perpetration of the tally-
sheet forgery the Journal, inspired by a spirit
of prophecy, produced in its columns a portrait
which was at once recognized as that of Mr.
Simon Coy, although the garments in which he
was arrayed differed from his usual apparel in
being striped horizontally. It was what might
be called a spirit photograph, Simon never
having worn that variety of stripes at that time.
The circumstances connected with this dis-
tinguished Democrat's departure from the city
have led to a call for a reproduction of this in-
teresting work of art, but space being valuable
the request cannot be complied with at this
time. If, however, Mr. Coy will kindly furnish
a photograph taken after he got his new spring
suit and in the position in which the spirit
camera fixed him, the Journal will cheerfully
publish the two, side by side, in full confirma-
tion that the similarity will firmly establish its
artistic and prophetic powers.

Will somebody kindly head off that item
about the Pope's golden rose, which has made
its annual reappearance a matter of news for
at least the tenth time. If the Pope intends to
supply Mrs. Sherman and Miss Caldwell each
with a large bouquet of golden roses the regu-
lar recurrence of the item is explainable; but if
it is the same rose that turns up every year it is
time for the paragraph to be withdrawn from
circulation.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal.

The headlines in the Journal of last Tuesday
said: "Judge Gresham Opposes the Case." Now,
when you no doubt meant Justice Harlan's
opinion. Ex-Senator Graham and a few other
gentlemen were boasting to-day, claiming it
as a feather in his (Gresham's) cap. Now, was
it not Justice Harlan's instead of Judge Gresham's
opinion? Please explain in your paper.

NORRISVILLE, May 17. N. D. LEVINSON.
As a matter of technical fact, Judge Gresham
reversed the writ of habeas corpus applied for
after the decision of Justice Harlan, and upon
the appeal from that refusal the case was be-
fore the Supreme Court. The opinion of Justice
Miller affirmed the denial of the writ by Judge
Gresham. But at the same time the court up-
held the decisions of both Justice
Harlan and Judge Woods, and overruled in ev-
ery particular the opinion rendered by Judge
Gresham in the Perkins case last year, when he
ruled that the United States Court had no juris-
diction of the crime because the tally-sheet
forgers did not change the figures of the vote
for Congressman.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal.

Please state in Friday's Journal who changed
the Bible into verses and chapters, and when it
was done and oblige.

THOUGHTS, Ind., May 18.
The division into chapters took place in the
thirteenth century, some ascribing it to Car-
dinal Hugo, and others to Stephen Langton,
Archbishop of Canterbury. The present divi-
sion into verses was perfected by Robert Step-
hens, a learned and pious printer of Paris, who
lived in the sixteenth century. He published
several editions of the Bible in different lan-
guages, the first one with verses being in 1531.

POLITICAL POINTS.

CINCINNATI Commercial Gazette: The Re-
publican party will not apologize in 1888 for
1884, and would deserve to die if it did.

Or the four gentlemen who are mentioned as
candidates for Governor on the next Republican
ticket in Wisconsin three are newspaper editors,
and the fourth is a politician. The present divi-
sion into verses was perfected by Robert Step-
hens, a learned and pious printer of Paris, who
lived in the sixteenth century. He published
several editions of the Bible in different lan-
guages, the first one with verses being in 1531.

THE Los Angeles Times says: "The Chicago
Tribune takes a poor way to advance the in-
terests of Judge Gresham when it constantly at-
tacks other aspirants."

THE Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle (Dem.) thinks
it is doubtful whether Virginia and North
Carolina will support the platform which the
Georgia Democrats have given to the
country.

BOSTON Transcript: One great obstacle in
the way of the Dewey boom is the difficulty
which people would have in learning to accent
Mr. Dewey's name on the first syllable, as he
does himself.

THE New York World is now the most eager
second to the Chicago Tribune in the advocacy
of Judge Gresham as the Republican candidate
for President. The World devotes a page of
Tuesday's issue to the boom.

THE Nashville American (Dem.) has the can-
did and sagacity to remark that its party stands
as much chance to lose Virginia as to carry In-
diana. The American would like a compromise
platform on the tariff, similar to that of 1884.

NEW YORK Special to Courier-Journal: By
the way, I heard here to-day that W. H. Barnum
did not intend to retire from the head of the
national committee until forced to. Of course
he will be badly beaten at the first meeting of
the new committee.

MR. STRALEY'S New York Special: The New
York Democrats appear to be in fine form, and
are not at all discouraged by the fact that they
will lose their present condition before the election.
They talk confidently of being able to carry the
State for Cleveland by 30,000 majority.

THE reunion of the members of the conven-
tion at Worcester, July 20, 1884, which formed
and gave name to the Republican party in Mas-
sachusetts, will be held in Boston the first or
second week in July. Letters from old members
may be addressed to Stephen M. Allen, the sur-
viving presiding officer, at Boston.

CHICAGO Herald: "The anti-corporation
sentiment of the West," is what is bothering
the friends of Mr. Dewey. And it is certainly worth
taking into account. The president of the New
York Central railroad would hardly be a popu-
lar candidate for President in States that have
been known to enact such measures as the
granger laws.

CLEVELAND Leader: The Democratic papers
are making a great effort to secure the Repub-
lican presidential nomination for Mr. Blaine,
and have set all sorts of wild rumors about
him. He is not a Republican, and he is not a
Democrat, and he is not a member of either
party, and he is not a candidate for President,
and he is not a member of either party, and he
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